

SUSPECT ALLIES' FOE OF DITCHING TRAIN

Express Carrying Men Making
Powder for Allies Wrecked
Near Metuchen, N. J.

FOUR PERSONS ARE INJURED

Railroad Official Charges Spikes
Were Put on the Rails to Throw
the Cars from the Track.

Special to The New York Times.

METUCHEN, N. J., July 31.—Four persons were injured, twoscore badly shaken up, and nearly a hundred lives imperiled

when the South River express on the Raritan River Railroad, carrying employes to the du Pont Powder Mill and the Union Guncotton Mill, was ditched between here and Parlin today.

C. M. Himmelberger, Superintendent of the railroad, said immediately after the accident that some person had put spikes on the rails with the deliberate intention of wrecking the train, probably with a view to crippling the employes working in the mills making ammunition for the Allies.

Jeremiah Minnick of South Amboy, engineer of the train, was badly cut and bruised and had to be removed to his home. Albert White of South Amboy suffered cuts and contusions. Richard Henderson of Perth Amboy had his head cut and his arm, sprained. Joseph Puskas of Totenville suffered cuts, sprains, and bruises. Other passengers were injured slightly.

The locomotive and one car left the track and crashed into a stone wall. The point where the accident occurred was at a bend in the road, near a bridge and particularly dangerous. The engineer and Edward Clark, the fireman, stuck to their posts. There was considerable confusion in the passenger cars,

the train coming to a stop so suddenly it threw many passengers to the floor.

Superintendent Himmelberger says there was no defect in the locomotive or the roadbed, and is positive that the wreck was caused by some one with malicious intent.

More than 5,000 men are engaged in the manufacture of war munitions in this part of Middlesex County, principally at Metuchen, Parlin, and Perth Amboy. It is estimated that 3,000 men are employed at the du Pont-De Nemours Powder plant and at the work of the Union Powder Company. The men are working in three shifts turning out gunpowder and guncotton for the Allies.

Under the charge of an ex-army officer, 100 armed guards keep constant watch on the plant and the workmen. The Raritan River railroad is taxed to its capacity, carrying workmen to and from the mills, in addition to its regular passenger traffic.

Suspicious looking strangers have been seen prowling about the Nixon plant at Metuchen and the Parlin plant on the opposite bank of the Raritan River, and, fearing that the men were German sympathizers, extra guards are being engaged. Instead of shipping guncotton by rail practically all of the Nixon output now goes by boat.

An investigation is being made into the train wreck, and it was said tonight that arrests might be made in a short time.

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